Dropsy Deaths

4320. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "66 dropsy deaths in 1998 blamed on PFA", as reported in the Times of India dated 7th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether CVC, CBI and Government have received complaints about Director (PFA), Delhi shaking hands with traders, including cases relating to presence of argemone in food articles;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated by the Union Government and whether a thorough enquiry keeping in view the public health interest, would be conducted; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The CVC has received two complaints against the Director, PFA, Govt. of NCT of Delhi containing allegations of connivance with traders including in cases relating to presence of argemone in food articles. The allegations have been referred to the Director (Vig.), Govt. of NCT of Delhi for necessary action.

The CBI also received an endorsement of a complaint addressed to CVC from a Food Inspector regarding the high-handedness of the Director (PFA) and undue favour shown to Directors of certain firms by charge-sheeting only the nominees of the said companies and thereby saving them from consequences of prosecution for causing dropsy deaths. The complaint is being examined by the CBI.

Preventive Measures for Aids

4321. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to save the Indian society from most dreaded disease of AIDS;

(b) if so, whether any preventive measure have been adopted;

(c) whether any literature has been propagated through various media to create awareness among the people; and